From: Jan Devereux
To: Devereux, Jan
Subject: Fwd: Community Alert: Cambridge City Council Hearing on Israel Boycott
Date: Sunday, April 15, 2018 3:54:05 PM

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Amy and Gary** <amygary@comcast.net>
Date: Fri, Apr 13, 2018 at 7:07 AM
Subject: Re: Community Alert: Cambridge City Council Hearing on Israel Boycott
To: Jan Devereux <jan@jandevereux.org>

Hello Jan,

What I forwarded you was a mailing from CJP. I don't always agree with their positions, but I think it is important to distinguish between support for refugees and condemnation of the state of Israel. It is not even close to a comparable issue. As you develop your position on this, please try to find a way to express compassion and support for refugees without condemning Israel, a nation of refugees from one of history's worst atrocities.

Don't fall into the trap that Breitbart and Fox have set for progressives. As a life-long liberal, I am concerned that this issue has forced many Jews into the arms of Trump, which would have been unthinkable otherwise. The fact that many of Trump's supporters would happily reopen the gas chambers seems to have escaped them.

Gary Seligson
617 510-2293

On Apr 12, 2018, at 9:11 PM, Jan Devereux <jan@jandevereux.org> wrote:

> I will take note of your position if such a resolution is on a future agenda. I don't have a position at this time.
>
> Jan Devereux
> Vice Mayor, Cambridge
>
> 617-460-2235 cell
> jandevereux.org
> jandevereux.com
>
> Twitter: @jandev
> Facebook: /votejandev
> Instagram: jandev
>
> On Thu, Apr 12, 2018 at 6:34 PM, Amy and Gary <amygary@comcast.net> wrote:
>
> > Hello Jan,
> >
> > What is your position on this?
> >
> > Gary Seligson
> > 617 510-2293

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Barry Shrage, CJP" <barryshrage@cjp.org>
Date: April 12, 2018 at 5:32:51 PM EDT
To: "Amy Seligson" <amygary@comcast.net>
Subject: Community Alert: Cambridge City Council Hearing on Israel Boycott
Reply-To: "Barry Shrage, CJP" <barryshrage@cjp.org>

View this email as a webpage.

CJP Logo

Dear Amy,

I am sharing this important community alert from our partner organizations regarding an upcoming Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) vote in the Cambridge City Council.

Barry Shrage
President, CJP

Community Alert: Cambridge City Council Hearing on Israel Boycott - Monday, April 23rd

On April 23rd, the Cambridge Massachusetts City Council is expected to consider a resolution that calls for the City “to end its contracts” with Hewlett-Packard (HP) until, according to the organizers, HP “ends their support for violence against and oppression of Palestinians, deportations and surveillance of immigrants in the U.S., and oppression and surveillance of those currently and formerly incarcerated in the U.S.”

This initiative is part of a larger global BDS (boycotts, divestment and sanctions) movement that is, in significant part, dedicated to Israel’s delegitimization as the Jewish state. Groups backing this resolution have offered other justifications for the HP boycott, but it remains clear that this effort is designed primarily to target and delegitimize Israel. As of today we have not seen a copy of the resolution. The rules of the Cambridge City Council do not require them to publish the resolution until 3pm

Thursday, April 19th. While some members of the Council have seen a draft resolution, the proponent organizers have – we are told – shared it with them on the condition that it not be made public. This seems to us to be a cynical effort to prevent an honest and open public debate prior to a significant action by a public body.

We call upon our community to mobilize and take action.

For both residents and non-residents of Cambridge:

- **Mark your calendar:** Make a commitment to be at Cambridge City Hall on **Monday, April 23rd at 5:30pm** to demonstrate your opposition to this resolution and to testify against it before the City Council. Your presence is important, even if you do not testify.
- **Anyone can testify**; advance online registration is recommended. To receive notification when the Council's online sign-up is live, and for other updates in the week ahead, **let us know here**.
- **Contact your friends** – especially those in Cambridge. Share this alert and ask them to take action as well.

If you are a resident of Cambridge:

- **Contact the City Council** and urge them to reject this effort to single out Israel for demonization. Please communicate to them respectfully but firmly and let them know that as someone who is concerned about the city you live in and its public image, this resolution will have implications beyond Hewlett-Packard and, if adopted, would tarnish the reputation of your city. Tell them:
    - The Cambridge City Council should not abdicate its responsibilities to an interest group whose purpose is to demonize Israel. Any resolution of this kind deserves a full and fair public hearing, including inviting experts and interested parties to weigh in openly before action is taken.
    - Singling out Israel and HP, amongst all the nations, companies, and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard raises troubling issues about the Cambridge City Council. Thousands of American companies that are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can be tied to questionable human rights practices; including numerous companies with Cambridge contacts.
    - It would be one thing if the Cambridge City Council elected to adopt a foreign policy that it applied without prejudice to nations and companies around the world. However, in this instance, the Council is overlooking scores of other situations and electing to support dubious and largely unexamined claims against Israel made by an outside organization.
    - The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace. The establishment of a Palestinian state is a goal we share, but it will not be realized by extreme and deceptive claims that belie the hard reality on the ground. There are many people of goodwill, who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

Now is the time to make your voice heard.

We cannot underscore how important it is for the members of the Cambridge City Council hear from our community about this. Together we can send the message: This action would be wrong for Cambridge and does not advance the prospects for achieving a lasting peace.

CJP welcomes the participation of interfaith couples and families, and people of all abilities, backgrounds, and sexual orientations.

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Combined Jewish Philanthropies
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